

**High level Committee to study the proposal on Iran-India Gas pipeline**

2095. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has set up a high-level Committee to examine a proposal received from the Government of Iran-regarding Iran-India natural gas pipeline proposal;

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee together with its detailed terms of reference; and

(c) whether the proposed pipeline is to pass through Pakistan and whether this factor has been/would be considered carefully before giving the proposal green signal and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. An Indo-Iran Joint Committee has been constituted to examine all aspects relating to supply of Iranian gas to India. These would include different modes of transportation, route options and related political, security, economic and technical issues. The Indian team to the first meeting of this Joint Committee scheduled to be held later this month will be led by Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs. The other members of the Indian delegations will be officers from the Ministries of External Affairs, Petroleum and Natural Gas and Defence.

**Devolution package offered by Sri Lankan Government**

2096. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that devolution package being offered by the Sri Lankan Government ignores Tamils of Indian origin but not other minorities like the Sri Lankan Tamils and the Muslims, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what steps the Ministry would take to convince Lankan Government to include Indian origin Tamils also in the devolution package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF